Alignment proposal from Rajasthan

†3235. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether another alignment for 349 km. to 357 km. of National Highway No. 76 has been proposed by Rajasthan Government; and

(b) if so, by when it would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action has been taken to conduct feasibility study, survey & investigation on the alternative alignment, km. 349 to kms 357 as proposed by the Government of Rajasthan. Approval of this alignment will depend on the outcome of this study.

Golden Quadrilateral in Goa

3236. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral covers the State of Goa;

(b) if so, when was the State of Goa made part of the project;

(c) the details of the project with respect to the State of Goa; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The approved alignment of Golden Quadrilateral does not pass through the State of Goa.

Work on NH-l

3237. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of work relating to the widening of Jalandhar-Pathankot sector of the National Highway No. 1 has been quite slow and by now only about one fourth thereof has been completed;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons for the slow progress; and

(c) by when the work of widening on the entire sector is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The work of Jalandhar Bypass on NH-1 and Jalandhar to Bhogpuron NH-1A has already been completed. The remaining stretch having a length of 84.45 km of Jatandhar-Pathankot Section including Chakki Bridge on NH-1A has been approved under NHDP Phase II. The Letter of Acceptance for civil work has been issued to the contractor in July 2005.

(c) The works on NHDP Phase-ll are targetted to be completed by 2008.

Forged Smart Cards

3238. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that forged Smart Cards of 1 KB memory instead of 4 KB memory as prescribed by Central Government guidelines are being circulated by manufacturer M/s. Smart Chip Limited throughout the country in connivance with Regional Transport Offices;

(b) whether the said company have violated the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take against the above firm and officials in order to curb the issue of forged Smart Cards throughout the country, especially in the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Government has amended the relevant provisions of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 to lay down the specifications for the microprocessor chip based smart card, which is of minimum 4 KB memory capacity and must conform to specifications of International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)/lnternationai Electro Technical Commission (IETC). Central Government's role is limited to advising the States to take